

Recreation and Culture



Recreation and Culture is responsible for facility maintenance, community events, and sports field bookings.

First & Second Quarter Report, 2020



CITY OF
CHILLIWACK

Recreation and Culture Events

Celebration and Activity Grant:

As a result of the steps taken to reduce the spread of COVID-19, there were no events supported by the Celebration and Activity Grant in the first and second quarters of 2020.

Community Events:

Similarly, there were no significant events to report in the first and second quarter of 2020 as major annual events such as the Chilliwack Tulip Festival, Yarrow Days and the Gwynne Vaughan Park Plant Sale were cancelled.

Special Skates:

From January to March, the City hosted seven special skates at the Sardis Sports Complex and the Chilliwack Coliseum:

- New Year's Day Winter Wonderland Toonie Skate
- Fairy Tales Come True Toonie Skate
- Valentine's Day Loonie Skate
- Family Day Skate
- Teddy Bear Picnic Parent & Tots Skate
- Video Game Skate
- Thank You Free Skate



The most well attended skates during the first quarter continue to be the New Year's Day Winter Wonderland Toonie Skate (499 attendees), and the Family Day Skate (414 skaters). Both skates use two sheets of ice to accommodate the high number of community participation. The Valentine's Day skates had 180 attendees this year which was a vast improvement over past years. The St Patrick's Day Skates were cancelled as recreation facilities closed to address COVID-19 concerns.



The Family Day Skate was once again supported by the Province of BC through their Family Day Grant which helped to open the second rink and supply free hot chocolate to those in attendance. The event saw 414 skaters come to the rink with many more guests attending with their families but not skating. This year, the United Way participated in the event and provided off-ice arts and crafts activities to add to the event in support of their goal to connect neighbours in Sardis.

In total, an estimated 1,345 guests attended special skates at the Sardis Sports Complex and the Chilliwack Coliseum during the first and second quarter.

Recreation and Culture Facility Report

A number of projects were completed in City owned facilities in the first and second quarter.



New ice condenser for SSC Rink 1 & 2

Sardis Sports Complex:

A new ice condenser installation was started for Rinks 1 and 2. The old rink boards were also replaced while the arena sound system received an upgrade and integration.

Landing Sports Centre:

The main floor received upgrades to the speaker system and communications systems. The old overhead heater was also replaced with a more effective unit.

Rotary Pool:

The popular outdoor pool has been freshened up with a completely new pool basin epoxy coating and painting.



New paint at Rotary Pool

Chilliwack Cultural Centre:

The Cultural Centre looks fresh after the repainting of the building exterior. Inside, the sound system was upgraded.

Cheam Leisure Centre:

The fitness area underwent a few changes including valance replacement, new paint, new flooring, and the construction of a brand new spin room.



Five Corners Clock Tower

Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre:

New lockers replaced all of the existing lockers in the aquatics area and a portion of the existing fitness area lockers. The aquatics area also saw the installations of new sprinter style starting blocks and bases, new 25 metre aluminum gutter for the lap pool, and new tile epoxy grouting. The cedar in the sauna room was fully replaced as was the water slide pump and pipework. A major sprinkler replacement was completed and the exterior main entrance sign and interior banner were also replaced. Finally, the fitness area received an upgrade to LED lighting.

Five Corners Clock Tower:

Upgrades were made to the internal mechanisms and the external pieces of the clock tower.

Recreation during COVID-19

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and with the often changing edicts from Provincial Health Officer, the Recreation and Culture Department has worked with user groups and the public to set out safe and effective ways to open up our recreation facilities.

Some of the measures which have been put in place are:

- Safety plans specific to each civic facility including maximum patron capacity that will ensure physical distancing guidelines can be adhered to.
- Entry and exit points have been defined to eliminate any user “pinch points”.
- A signed addendum, outlining the user responsibility in informing their participants about the risk of COVID-19 and ways to mitigate the transmission of the virus, is circulated to every user of any of the City’s facilities through the booking software PerfectMind.
- Effective July 27, 2020 the Provincial Government requires any host using a facility for an event, activity or program to do contact tracing and submit that information to the facility owner upon where it is to be stored for 30 days. This new request required the Recreation and Culture Department to develop a template for contact information for all existing user groups and add this requirement to booking contracts.



Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve (GBHNR)

January, February, and the first half of March were busy at the Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve (GBHNR). The New Years Day Walk was attended by over 140 people and led by four guides. The GBHNR winter homeschool program was fully booked and ran from the last week of January to the second week of March. There were multiple school and community groups booked in January, February, and early March, and a Caregiver and Tot program ran during the month of February. Multiple art workshops were also held on weekends in February. The annual Family Nature Festival scheduled for March 20 and 21 was cancelled due to COVID-19, as was the fully booked Spring Break Camp that was scheduled for March 23 through to March 27.



The herons began returning to their nests the last week of February and the first guided heron walk took place on March 7. However, the guided heron walks that were scheduled for April, May, and June were all cancelled due to COVID-19. Students from UFV have continued conducting multiple research projects in the heron colony at the GBHNR this spring.

Despite the closure of the Interpretive Centre in mid-March, trails continued to be well used through March, April, and May. The Tower Trail received much necessary upgrades, including being newly graveled to make it more accessible year round.

Approximately 2,500 visitors came through the Interpretive Centre at the GBHNR in January, February, and the first half of March.



Rosedale Traditional Community School Society

The first quarter welcomed community members to participate in several programs through the Rosedale Traditional Community School Society. For adults, the society offered Drop In Pickleball, Volleyball, and Badminton. Youth participated in gymnastics, Tiny Cooks, Mad Scientist, mixed sports, guitar and piano lessons. Doors were open Friday evenings for youth in grades 4-6 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM to participate in Friday Fun Zone, and for youth in grades 7-9 from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM to participate in Youth Nite. Three young adult leaders planned and executed guided



activities based on weekly themes. Friday nights welcome up to 70 youth each week. On Monday evenings, youth ages 13-18 years were invited to gather on a relaxed non-directed basis in partnership with Chilliwack Community Services.

Activities were shut down by mid-March. The society initially continued to provide childcare but most of the families dropped out of care and the centre closed temporarily until mid-May. When it reopened, approximately 23% of families returned and in June, the centre ran at 73%. Summer programming is scheduled to move forward with the ever popular Celebrate Summer Day Camp being provided for school aged children.



Chilliwack Central Elementary Community School Society

In the first quarter, the Chilliwack Central Elementary Community School Society (CCECSS) offered participants, ages ranging from preschool to adult, programs which included soccer, karate, video game design, Home Alone, Red Cross babysitting, Art Exploration, basketball, Minecraft, piano lessons, Stone Soup Kids, Lego Robotics, drop-in adult soccer, Zumba, and yoga.

The drop-in Tween Club program also ran weekly on Thursday evenings and was open to all students in surrounding schools in Grades 3-5. The program started later in January due to weather closures and was closed down by March 12 due to COVID-19 but still had 93 participants in total. The winter session of Tween Club included weekly themes such as STEM, Challenge Night, Paint Nite, Winter Welcome, Movie Mania, and more.

CCECSS ran its Second Day arts and sports "no fee" after school program which provides activities to four schools: Central, Bernard, McCammon, and Strathcona Elementary Schools. The winter session ran five days a week for eight weeks with over 100 students attending in total. The program closed from March 13 to May 11 due to COVID-19. On May 25, CCECSS used MS Teams to start a Second Day virtual program which consisted of arts and sports activities and ran three days a week for five weeks. There were 55 students who participated in this program from McCammon, Central, Bernard, and Strathcona Elementary Schools. Each student received an activity package of supplies delivered to their home so they could participate. CCECSS also opened its preschool program onsite to families for the month of June.

93 participants - Tween Club
114 participants - Community classes
155+ participants - 2nd Day after school program

REGISTRATION INFORMATION		
Summer Day Camp 2020		
We accept CASH or CHEQUE only.		
Summer Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9am-2pm (call to book additional times)		
Program Hours Monday to Friday - 9am to 5pm from July 6th to August 1st (early drop-off and late pick-up may be available to essential service workers)		
Program Cost: \$17 a day (we accept SUBSIDY for those who qualify)		
LICENSED CHILDCARE ALL DAY CAMP Open to children going into Kindergarten to age 12 years		
Are you an essential service worker looking for childcare or parent/guardian looking for a safe place for your children to have some fun this summer?		
Our leaders will provide the children with a safe place to have fun. Our program is licensed and it resides within a school facility so we follow all the required safety protocols.		
The children will be kept engaged throughout the week all summer long with games, sports, crafts, walks, and water fun! Each week has a different theme. The children have lots of space to play outside on the playground and field.		
Sign up for a day, a week or the whole summer. Don't forget to bring your lunch, snacks, water bottle, non-marking shoes, bathing suit, towel, sun screen, hat and be prepared for lots of fun!		
Week 1: July 6th - 10th	Ticket to Fun!	Let's have some fun this summer! We will kick off the summer by playing a variety of games, making crafts, and meeting new friends!
Week 2: July 13th-17th	Summer Olympics	I challenge the athletes in you with a week filled full of sports and stunts galore! Come on out and have a chance to race to the finish line!
Week 3: July 20th - 24th	Discovery Adventure	This week is filled with discovery action and has something for each discovery enthusiast! Whether you want to walk like a dinosaur or find your inner technologist by time-traveling through time and space, we have it all!
Week 4: July 27th - 31st	Hawaiian Hula Hoop	Aloha! Join us at a tropical paradise with beautiful leis, hula, leis, exotic animals, tropical treats, and so much more!
Week 5: August 3rd - 7th	Space Jam	3, 2, 1... Blastoff into outer space! The sky is the limit to what space-themed creations and activities will take place! Be ready to explore new planets and watch our fun films!
Week 6: August 10th - 14th	Under the Sea	See life galore, oh yes! We will dive deep into the sea this week to discover the underwater world. We'll discover animals at a sea and create in our underwater adventures! You will have to join us to find out!
Week 7: August 17th - 21st	Happy Birthday	Happy Birthday to you! We will be celebrating everyone's birthday! Enjoy the celebration with us!

Yarrow Community School Society

January at the Yarrow Community School Society provided a variety of adult weeknight programming such as Zumba, yoga, fitness boot camps, volleyball, pickleball, hockey, and dance classes. Meanwhile, youth had choir and a Saturday morning ball hockey league which divided 36 youth into two groups based on their ages. The ball hockey league has maintained its popularity over the years starting as a tyke kids program and expanding to meet the needs and wants of the community. The bi-weekly sewing/fabric arts classes continued with lots of fun themes through the first quarter.

Through the babysitting course, there are now 18 newly qualified babysitters in the community. The Stay at Home Safe course scheduled for May had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 along with programs scheduled to start after Spring Break such as gymnastics, sewing, kids cooking, and the Blast Ball league.

The Cycling Without Age program has been slowly resuming. With improved weather, both bikes have been rolled out. New safety protocols have been put in place so participants can be taken out for rides on the trails. This program is helping combat people's feelings of isolation in these difficult times.



Promontory Heights Elementary Community School Association

Promontory Heights Elementary Community School Association (PHECSA) enjoyed a busy, fun, winter session of afterschool programs. Winter programs offered included: Delicious Desserts, Baking Buddies, Pickle Ball, Discover Dance, Home Alone, Red Cross Babysitter Course, BCSPCA programming, Zumba, Bootcamp, karate, and soccer.

PHECSA's drop-in programs continued to be a great success. Tween Night, held on select Friday evenings, offered fun activities and games for tweens in Grades 4-6 while providing an opportunity to socialize with their peers in a safe and fun environment. Busy Bees caregiver/parent & tot program is also often at full capacity. This wonderful program offers a variety of themed crafts, story time, and lots of free playtime. It also provides participating parents/guardians with a chance to connect with others in the community. The Primetimers is a weekly Friday morning get-together at the school that provides seniors with a chance to enjoy conversation and coffee at no charge. PHECSA offers private piano and guitar lessons, which operate at full capacity with a wait list.

Having these, and many more, activities offered in the community makes it very convenient for community members of all ages to get active, make connections, and learn new skills right in their neighborhood.

PHECSA cancelled the spring programming due to COVID-19. Panther Pen Childcare program remains open to offer childcare to the community and to families of essential service workers.

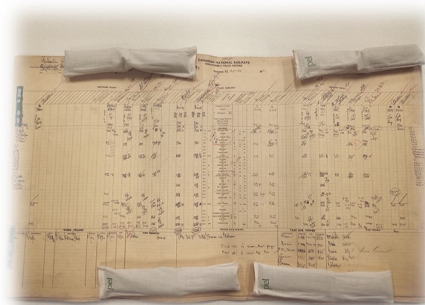


Chilliwack Museum

After closing due to COVID-19, the Chilliwack Museum and Archives planned to re-open on July 6, 2020. The Museum will open with modified hours and a maximum capacity of 15 visitors. The Archives will be open by appointment only.

Funding:

- **Canadian Museums Association – Young Canada Works Summer Student Final Payment:** Received the remaining 25% (\$1,122.90) for the CMA summer student grant through Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations.
- **Canadian Museums Association – Young Canada Works – Building Careers in Heritage Initial Payment:** Received the initial 75% (\$5,834.70) for the CMA intern salary grant through Young Canada Works.
- **BC Arts Council – Operating Assistance Grant:** Received the full grant request amount of \$22,400 from the BC Arts Council to assist with operating costs. Also received an additional \$2,000 one-time supplement to assist with operating costs.
- **BCMA Family Day Event Grant:** Received \$400 from the British Columbia Museums Association to host a Family Day event on Family Day Weekend.
- **BC Arts Council – Resiliency Supplement:** The BC Arts Council provided a supplemental award of \$5,000 to help the Chilliwack Museum and Archives cope with the impacts of COVID-19.
- **BC Arts Council – Grant Advance:** The BC Arts Council has provided a 50% advance of the 2021 grant funds to help the organization cope with the impacts of COVID-19.
- **Government of Canada – Canada Cultural Spaces Fund:** The Chilliwack Museum and Archives was awarded \$14,268 for the renovation of the permanent gallery space.



The 1951 CN Dispatcher's Train Record

Curatorial & Exhibitions:

- Collaboration with Matthew Hawkins (Around Chilliwack) to continue monthly Monday Museum Moment feature. Latest feature in January 2020 highlights the history of the Chilliwack Branch of the Fraser Valley Regional Library.
- Organized tours of the museum's exhibition spaces as part of the Heritage BC Conference, originally slated to occur May 7 – 9, 2020. The conference has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Presented to two classes of elementary students at Bernard Elementary on the topic of 'What does a Curator do?'
- Contours: The Shape of Our City: Finalized exhibition didactic text, photograph selection and graphic design for the new exhibition. Exhibition is slated to open in August 2020 following extensive renovations to the museum's permanent gallery.

Chilliwack Museum

Education & Engagement Education:

- 18 programs booked (14 were classroom visits to elementary schools in Chilliwack)
- Interacted with 18 teachers, 324 students, and 22 parents.
- Two visits booked at the Museum through Chilliwack Community Services, inviting young children ages 2-5 and their parents to the Museum for specialized activities
- As part of the new education program "SKWO:WECH; the Fraser River's White Sturgeon", which focuses on the cultural significance of the sturgeon and ecology, a 4ft scale model was commissioned. The model is designed to be a hands-on learning tool for students and visitors.



Engagement:

- The first Family Day event at the Chilliwack Museum "You, Me, and the Family Tree" was on February 15. 70% of respondents from the exit survey had never been to the Museum before. The event was funded by a Family Day Grant from the BC Museums Association and the Province of BC.
- Joined other museums to create a #museumalphabet of the CMA on social media. Each letter of the alphabet features an object from the CMA collection, a staff member, an education component, or other interesting fact about the CMA and is shared on social media.
- A Community Engagement Survey went out to the community for two weeks in late May.

Loans:

- **Vancouver Art Gallery Loan:** Facilitated loan of 1987.031.001a-b [Coast Salish Weaving + Hanger by Mary Peters] and 2016.070.002 [Coast Salish Weaving attributed to Adeline Lorenzetto] to the Vancouver Art Gallery as part of their Modern in the Making exhibition. The exhibition was slated to run between April 10, 2020 and September 13, 2020. Loan has been extended to February 15, 2021 to accommodate a new exhibition opening date due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The weaving will be featured in the upcoming Modern in the Making: Post-War Craft and Design in British Columbia exhibition.
- **L1991.001:** Loan of Royal Engineers Uniform Jacket and Bonnet from community member renewed until June 1, 2022. The jacket and bonnet are currently planned for inclusion in the upcoming Contours: The Shape of Our City exhibition.
- **L2020.001 & L2020.002:** Loan of Total Station and Gurley Plane Table Alidade for Contours: The Shape of Our City exhibition, courtesy of Wedler Engineering and Heritage Abbotsford Society respectively.

Chilliwack Museum

Collections:

- Curatorial received multiple donations this past quarter from various community groups and organizations, including Algra Bros. Development.
- Ongoing collections management, processing and maintenance – 35 newly processed artifacts, including Bible from the Loyal Orange Benevolent Association [2018.044.001], bronze statue of Piper James Cleland Richardson [2019.031.001], half cinder block from Chilliwack Curling Club [2019.020.001] and volunteer Fire Department pin belonging to Frederick Gordon “F.G.” Leary [2019.005.001].
- Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) Artifact Analysis and Examination application for stabilization and storage assessment of 2001.013.001a-b [Topographical 3D Map] denied. Curator has requested additional information to strengthen future applications and has asked for the names of suitable conservators in the area who might be able to conduct treatment on the map.

Gift Shop:

The Chilliwack Museum and Archives Gift Shop moved to an online platform in May. The Museum offers deliveries and pickup for items purchased online at shop.chilliwackmuseum.ca. The Gift Shop has been fitted with a new desk and appropriate barriers in preparation for the opening of the facility on July 6, 2020.

Archives:

Statistics for January 1 to June 30, 2020:

	January	February	March	April	May	June	Total
Visitors	82	40	45	0	0	0	167
Research phone calls	25	25	25	6	10	11	102
Research emails	11	21	14	12	9	11	78
Photo orders	11	4	7	2	1	2	27

Free Archives tours continued on the last Friday of each month at 3:00pm during the first quarter. Tours were cancelled during the second quarter for the interim.

On May 7, 2020 a Virtual Archives Tour was offered via Facebook Live with 33 people attending virtually.

Statistics for January 1 to March 31:

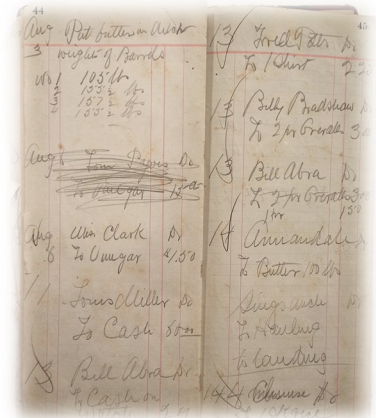
Total Museum Visitors: 244
 Archives visitors: 167
 Archives phone / email inquiries: 121
 Gift Shop Sales: \$1,238.83.

Chilliwack Museum

Unique Donations:

2020.019 includes several CN (and some CP and Great Northern) railroad records. Some of which are very unique including a 1951 CN Dispatcher's Train Record, CN Time Table, and CN Clearance forms between Boston Bar and Vancouver. Together these three records essentially show when trains were scheduled to leave, corrections made in the field, and final clearance slips as engineers were actually passing stations along the scheduled route and adjustments needed to those schedules.

2020.025: John Allen "Al" Evans farm ledger from 1894-1895. The ledger is unique in that it shows what was being farmed at the time, as well as includes a quick note during the flood of 1894 indicating that the individual was moving the horses and cattle.



John Allen Evans Farm Ledger, 1894-1895.



Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre & Cheam Leisure Centre



Both facilities were closed due to COVID-19 public health considerations in the spring, but found ways to adapt. Online programs were offered for community connection and included family involvement through social media platforms Instagram and Facebook. Community engagement included tips and reminders for water safety, crafts to do at home, and workouts for physical and mental health.

During the first and second quarter, each facility underwent some small changes. At the Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre, these updates included new cedar for the sauna and new lockers in the aquatic changerooms. At the Cheam Leisure Centre, these updates included fresh paint and new lockers in aquatic changerooms.



Chilliwack and District Seniors Resources Society



The first quarter started off with strong attendance to Society events and programs. However, there was a decrease at the end of February due to concerns with COVID-19 and at the beginning of March, events and trips started getting cancelled. The offices were completely shut down and all programs and services were cancelled on March 10. Staff returned to the offices on June 22.

From April to June, the Senior Resources Society has been running a free essential weekly grocery program for low income seniors. Through the support of community partners and a grant received from the Vancouver Foundation, this program has fed more than 55 seniors each week. The weekly grocery program has been run out of the hall on Victoria Avenue. Chilliwack and District Senior Resources Society continues to expand their programs and activities to meet the needs of the community's diverse seniors population.

Attendance for the first and second quarter:

1,016 activities in City of Chilliwack facilities
402 participants
1,348 telephone, walk-in and email enquiries



Chilliwack Heritage Park

Chilliwack Heritage Park kicked off the new year with the Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce's Business Excellence Awards. This was quickly followed up by the annual Chilliwack Home & Leisure Show before things revved up for indoor motorcycle racing. February was an exceedingly busy month with more indoor motorcycle racing, followed by the Mt. Cheam Dog Show and finally, the Women's Show. In March, everything came to an unprecedented halt with the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic. All events ceased and Chilliwack Heritage Park closed its doors. The facility reopened to locals on June 1 and began hosting small rentals that do not exceed the maximum threshold of 50 people, as mandated by the provincial health officer. These small rentals have included the Chilliwack Riding Club, the Canadian Barrel Racers, and private horse riding rentals since reopening.



Attendance:

January to March 24: 850
March 24 to June 1: closed
June 1 to June 30: 101
951 to end June 2020

Chilliwack Cultural Centre

January 2020 started off with the Players Guild's production of the radio play *A Pearl in the Hand* and CSOPA's production of *Matilda*. The Society presented *Shawn Farquhar's Cabaret of Wonders XVII*, *Boomerang Concert 2* featuring *Brook Potter* and other local musicians, and finally the *Peking Acrobats of China*.

February started with the Academy of Music's fundraiser the *Fraser Valley Distillery Festival*. Renters included Creative Outlet's *Dance Team 2020 Debut*, *Country Icons*, Project Dance's *Company Preview Show*, and the Chilliwack Metropolitan Orchestra's *Return to Love*. Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society shows included *The Red Violin* with *The Bergmann Duo* and *Jasper Woods*, *The Comic Strippers*, *Anne of Green Gables* ballet, *Boomerang Concert 3* featuring *Dion Weisbrod* and other local musicians, *Bobs & LoLo*, *Shawn Farquhar's Cabaret of Wonders XVIII*, *Forever Plaid*, and the *Simon Fraser University Pipe Band*.

March was well underway with renters *Gender Revolution: A Journey with Katie Couric film*, *Alan Doyle – Rough Side Out Tour*, and the Chilliwack Lions Club Music & Dance Festival *Dance Honours Performance*. Society shows included *I Am Woman! Hear Me Laff!* and *Kim's Convenience*.

On March 16, the provincial health officer prohibited all gatherings of 50 or more people for the immediate future and Chilliwack's recreation facilities were temporarily closed.

On May 25, the Society received authorization to begin the Phase 2 reopening of the Chilliwack Cultural Centre. This reopening started slowly and did not include the reopening of the HUB International Theatre nor the Rotary Hall Studio Theatre for performances.

The Society is working with the artists, promoters, and instructors to schedule alternate dates for shows, events, and classes. Patrons will be contacted for each show and students of classes will be contacted once class dates are rescheduled.



Spring Break Kids' Art Camps:

All Spring Break Kids' Art Camps were cancelled on March 17.

Summer Kids' Art Camps:

Summer Kids' Art Camps have been cancelled this summer.

Arts & Crafts Classes:

All Art & Crafts classes were cancelled or postponed as of March 17.

The Society is working towards offering a limited number of Adult Arts & Crafts classes over the summer. These classes will be promoted through the website and social media pages. Classes will be moved from regular Arts & Crafts classrooms into the Rotary Hall Studio Theatre so that strict physical distancing can be observed. All class participants will be required to wear face coverings (a non-medical cloth mask is provided if patrons do not have their own).

Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Open Studios:

All Open Studios were cancelled on March 17.

The Clay Open Studio was reopened to patrons on June 4 on a limited basis. For the time being, this open studio is no longer available on a drop in basis. Participants will have to register with the box office in order to ensure that the number of attendees is limited. All other Open Studio programs remain cancelled at this time.

Online Local Performances:

The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society has produced some mini-concerts with hired local performers to help keep patrons connected to art during this downtime (physical distancing protocols strictly observed). These will be shared on social media sites at no charge.

The Centre Box Office:

The Centre Box Office has remained open online and reopened to the public on June 4 with reduced hours which are Monday to Friday from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Visitors are required to wear face coverings at all times (a non-medical cloth mask is provided if patrons do not have their own) and sign in upon arrival.

Chilliwack Academy of Music:

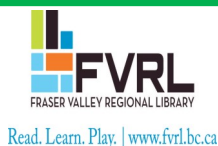
The Academy closed for Spring Break and remains closed.

O'Connor Group Art Gallery:

On March 17, the O'Connor Group Art Gallery was closed. The Society is hoping to reopen the gallery soon.

Hours of Operation:

The Chilliwack Cultural Centre was formally closed to the public on March 17 and reopened in a limited capacity on June 1, 2020. Reduced hours are now from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday to Friday. During closure, the building has undergone extensive cleaning, maintenance, and safety protocol enhancements.



Chilliwack Library

On February 8, library staff held a “Mini-Golf Cubetto” session for eager participants. Cubetto is a friendly wooden robot that teaches the basics of computer programming through stories and activities. Participants transformed Cubetto into a mini-golf player and then learned to program Cubetto to hit a hole-in-one! While this program was geared towards children ages 3-8, all families were welcomed to participate together.

Every year the Chilliwack Library staff participate in Pink Shirt Day. Sporting the design made by local UFV student, Chantelle Trainor-Matties, these t-shirts were purchased through the Stó:lō gift shop, which supports Indigenous artists. The design features the phrase: “Build others up. Don’t tear them down.” and an illustration Trainor-Matties describes as “the dance of the otters.”

April and May appeared quiet at the Chilliwack Library but many staff were busy working from home. One group in particular had a monumental task before them: planning a virtual version of the annual Summer Reading Club.

Never has Summer Reading Club been offered in an online format. In cooperation with BC Summer Reading Club, FVRL staff were able to pull together a brand new experience for customers. This year’s theme:



“Explore Your Universe! This year the sky is not the limit! You can explore the whole universe of knowledge and stories with Summer Reading Club.”



Starting June 12, customers of all ages can now sign up completely online, keep track of their reading, and put in their submissions weekly for a chance to win prizes. Downloadable activities such as colouring bookmarks and crosswords, will be released regularly on the FVRL website for children to enjoy.

Traditionally, the Chilliwack Library has hosted free community events for local families. This year, they will have the same performers, just a different format. The Library will be hosting the ever popular Norden the Magician, Music with Marnie, Puppet Shows with Espeth, and Stories on Wheels by Panagaea Arts.

While this new format presents new challenges, some benefits can be noted as well. Without the need to plan for physical spaces and weather conditions, staff have more flexibility to add virtual programs with less planning and more spontaneity.



Yarrow Library

During the start of 2020, regular programs were well attended and there was a very successful special event. In February, with the support of the Friends of the Chilliwack Libraries Society, the Library hosted an Escape Room program. In collaboration with “Escape on the Move,” based in Langley, BC, two escape rooms were featured with a Space Odyssey and Ninja theme. Each room contained locks, puzzles, clues and hints where participants demonstrated problem-solving, creative-thinking, brainstorming techniques and collaborated in small groups.

April was a quiet month at the Yarrow Library as staff adapted to working from home. Social media, Facebook in particular, has been a vital tool for libraries to connect with their customers. Virtual storytimes and babytimes, filmed from home by dedicated library staff, have been posted daily to help fill the void for families seeking literacy activities for their children.



Sardis Library

Approximately 80 people came out to take part in an early Chinese New Year celebration at the Sardis Library on January 18. Members of the Xinru Center were in Chilliwack for this cross-cultural event, sharing the history of Chinese New Year along with a taste of oolong tea and sweet treats. Activities included Chinese knot tying and calligraphy instruction.

Common Threads is a local drop-in knitting group that meets Tuesday nights at the Sardis Library. Every year they pick a charitable project. This year they have decided to make Izzy Dolls to send to Health Partners International of Canada. These dolls are used as packing materials when this organization sends medical supplies overseas to countries in need and are handed out at medical clinics to children. For some, this is their first and only toy.



At the Annual Puzzle Sale, the Friends of the Chilliwack Libraries Society again managed to top last year's sales, earning just over \$8,600. This volunteer organization supports the library through advocacy, fundraising and assistance with various projects and programs. The libraries are grateful for all the hard work they do.

Sardis Library's youngest customers had another opportunity to make new friends and explore their environment during our latest Baby Playdate program. More than 80 attendees enjoyed a variety of stimulating play stations and took part in a special Circle Time with Elspeth Bowers, and advocate for early literacy.

In February, staff noticed an increasing number of young adults visiting Sardis Library after they learned from their friends about the amazing resource available at the library. They are eager to learn how to download e-books and audio books and are pleasantly surprised when told they can also check out e-magazines and stream movies. This demographic can often be hard to reach, but Sardis Library has an enviable group of return teen customers.



Despite unique times due to COVID-19, the demand for services from the library has remained strong. After a few weeks of learning to work from home and focusing on virtual programming, FVRL launched its "FVRL Express" holds pickup service.

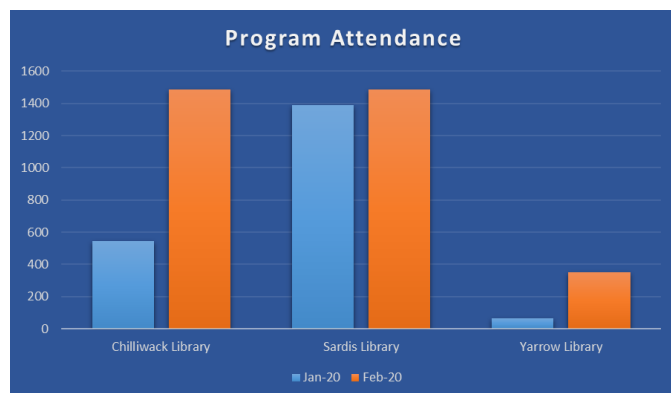


Beginning June 1, customers were able to pick up library holds using the FVRL Express - Click, Pick, Go. Customers can place holds through their online account and staff will pick and prepackage items. Customers are sent an email when items are ready to be picked up. The service has proven to be exceedingly popular at the Sardis Library. In the first two weeks of June, a whopping 4,791 items were served to 996 eager customers. Despite being a physically smaller branch, this was the second highest number of items served within any of FVRL's 25 branches.



Read. Learn. Play. | www.fvrl.bc.ca

Library Statistics



Program Attendance: Jan 2020

Chilliwack: 545
Sardis: 1,390
Yarrow: 66

Program Attendance: Feb 2020

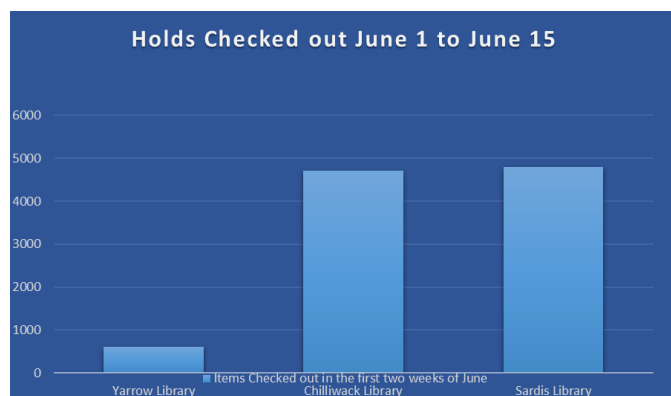
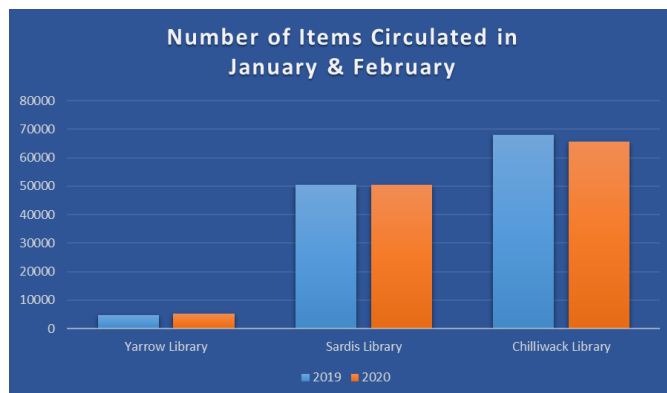
Chilliwack: 1,485
Sardis: 1,485
Yarrow: 350

Items Circulated: Jan 2020

Chilliwack: 4,632
Sardis: 50,541
Yarrow: 50,370

Items Circulated: Feb 2020

Chilliwack: 5,361
Sardis: 50,370
Yarrow: 65,665



Holds Checked Out: Jun 2020

Chilliwack: 612
Sardis: 4,712
Yarrow: 4,791

Customer Count: Jun 2020

Chilliwack: 100
Sardis: 898
Yarrow: 996

